



Anthony V. Marrocco

Public Works Commissioner
Macomb County

March 4, 2011
For Immediate Release

Macomb Public Works Commissioner Marrocco Seeks “Qualified and Motivated” County Resident to Serve on Detroit Water Board

County Public Works Commissioner Anthony V. Marrocco is inviting “qualified and motivated” local residents to serve on the revamped Detroit Water Board to represent Macomb County’s interests on the governing body of the giant utility.

Commissioner Marrocco said that persons wanting to serve should submit a letter or email message to him, describing their qualifications and interest in the position. The deadline for applying is March 11, 2011. The new board is scheduled to take office by April 1, 2011.

Several names have been floated for the position but Marrocco said he wanted to open the process to include all county residents.

Applications can be mailed or hand delivered to Marrocco at 21777 Dunham, Clinton Township MI 48036 or emailed to Public.Works@macombcountymi.gov. Terms are four years.

Board members must have a minimum of seven years of experience in engineering, law, finance, a public utility or other regulated industry. To avoid a conflict of interest under the state Incompatible Public Offices Act, board members cannot be an elected official or ranking administrator from a community that contracts with Detroit for water or sewer service. Marrocco and his deputies are prohibited from serving.

The requirements were agreed to Feb. 11 by Commissioner Marrocco, Detroit Mayor David Bing, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano and Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner John McCulloch. The conditions were included in a stipulated order entered by Federal Judge Sean Cox in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

Under terms of the order, suburban counties for the first time will have the right to name three of the seven representatives to the Water Board. Previously, Water Board bylaws allowed but didn’t require suburban representation. Under terms of the order, the other four members must be Detroit residents.

Commissioner Marrocco said suburban representatives will have a stronger voice on the board because a super majority of five votes will be required to approve water and sewer rates and capital improvements projects.

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“I’m looking for an enthusiastic county resident with the required credentials to be a strong voice for Macomb County on the board and to keep us informed of water department activities”, Commissioner Marrocco said.

The court order provides that water board members will receive a salary of \$10,000 a year, plus \$250 per board meeting. Maximum compensation will be \$20,000 a year.

Commissioner Marrocco said board members can expect to attend 3 to 4 board meetings per month, in addition to devoting time for research and discussion of issues. Most of the meetings will be held during daytime business hours.

In another innovation intended to empower the Water Board, it will have the assistance an in-house staff consisting of an attorney, finance officer and technical expert with experience in engineering, water operations or wastewater services. The staff will conduct research, investigate issues, make recommendations and monitor activities of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department.

(For additional information contact Macomb Deputy Public Works Commissioner Gene Schabath at (586) 469-7424)